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Of special significance was the creation of the Arbitration Court, with authority to rule in controversies pertaining to agreements existing between Poland and a foreign government; to agreements between contracting parties; to written stipulation between parties, or to agreements which have gone into the court record; and to legal cases in which the complainant appeals to the court and the defendant rejects the opinion and competency of such court.

The members of the Arbitration Court are elected by the council for a term of 3 years. They are economists, lawyers, and commercial and industrial experts. The court is composed of at least 50 persons. At present, it comprises 187 members, with a chairman, a secretary, and a deputy secretary; it is represented in arbitration cases by the chairman or one of his deputies.

For each individual case, the parties choose a judge and a chairman from among the arbitrators. The chairman of the Arbitration Court designates members in special cases only, when he is empowered to do so by both parties or when one party fails to nominate a judge.

The parties select experts and participate in the proceedings either personally or through their authorized agents.

The court provides that witnesses be subpoenaed at the request of one of the parties or on its own initiative. Its decisions are guided by the principles of business practice and are based on good faith and justice. Resolutions and judgments are passed by a majority vote. Decisions cannot be appealed.

Delinquent debtors are barred from appealing to the Arbitration Court. This assures the execution of judgments against parties residing in countries where decisions of Polish courts, especially of the Polish Arbitration Courts, do not have legal force. Decisions are made known to other arbitration courts, both domestic and foreign.

Trial costs and fees are levied according to the scale fixed by the chamber's council.

At present, the presidium of the Arbitration Court is composed of Dr Rafael Taubenszlag, professor at Warsaw University, chairman; Prof Wlodzimierz Kozubski and Henryk Czarnecki, director of the Commerce Bank in Warsaw, deputy chairmen; and Dr Maurycy Richter, secretary.

According to a report submitted by the Polish Chamber of Foreign Trade, no disputes have arisen in connection with commercial transactions with the USSR, Czechoslovakia, and Hungary. No general arbitration agreement has been concluded with the West, so that a special arbitration agreement has to be reached for individual commercial transactions. The chamber has not been able to carry out comprehensive market and trade analyses as planned. At present, research on market conditions is limited to problems pertaining to the export of agricultural products. The results of these investigations are published in special bulletins.

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